

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, the claims pending in the subject application are 1-14. Reconsideration of this application based on the Amendments and Remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.

New claims 11-14 have been added. Support for these claims can be found at page 3, lines 14 and 21-25. The total number of claims does not exceed the total number previously paid for. In the event that Applicants have overlooked the need for claim fees, the Director - U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 23-3425 any claim fees necessary for entry of this amendment.

This application was filed with formal drawings for Figures 1-3. Applicants have not yet received a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review to indicate whether the drawings have been accepted. Please provide a copy of this notice.

35 U.S.C. §112 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims are directed to a method, but they were not written with an active step. Claim 1 has been amended to reword the claim with an active step. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are not indefinite.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by either DE19611062 or United States Patent No. 5,500,274 to Francis et al. DE19611062 is related to United States Patent No. 5,991,042 to Rupieper et al., and a copy of this patent is enclosed.

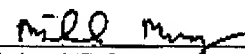
Claim 1 has been amended so that measurements are taken at at least two points that have the same coating thickness but have different coat thickness gradients. One non-limiting example of this method is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. Measurements can be taken at points 5a and 5a'. Both of these points have the same coating thickness, but they have different coating thickness gradients (Figure 2). There is no disclosure or suggestion in DE19611062 or Francis '274 that measurements are taken at least at these two points. While measurements can be taken at different points in DE19611062 or Francis '274, there is no disclosure or suggestion of selecting the two points for measuring. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 are not anticipated by either DE19611062 or United States Patent No. 5,500,274 to Francis et al.

35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE19611062 or United States Patent No. 5,500,274 to Francis et al. Claims 8-10 ultimately depend from claims 1-7. From above, claims 1-7 are patentable over either of the cited references. Therefore, claims 8-10 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §102, §103, and §112 rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-14. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael F. Morgan, Esq. (Reg. No. 42,906)
(248) 948-2355
BASF Corporation
26701 Telegraph Road
Southfield, MI 48034-2442

Date: 28 August 2003

OFFICIAL
FAX RECEIVED
AUG 28 2003
TC 1700